

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 AF-06 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02

INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

USIA-06 OMB-01 IO-10 /086 W
----- 120643

R 040839Z NOV 75

FM AMEMBASSY RABAT

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6887

INFO AMEMBASSY ALGIERS

AMEMBASSY MADRID

AMEMBASSY NOUAKCHOTT

AMEMBASSY PARIS

C O N F I D E N T I A L RABAT 5318

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, PBOR, MO, SS, SR, AG, MR

SUBJECT: SAHARA: MOROCCO AND ALGERIA

1. WHILE OPPOSITION PRESS HAS CONTINUED TO
ATTACK ALGERIA OVER ITS MOVES REASSERT ITSELF CONCERNING
SAHARA, GOM HAS BEEN REMARKABLY SUBDUED IN ITS RECENT
PUBLIC STATEMENTS ON ALGERIA. TEXT OF KING'S NATIONAL DAY
MESSAGE TO BOUMEDIENE WAS NOT PUBLISHED, BUT SEMI-OFFICIAL PRESS
ACCOUNT OF MESSAGE SAID KING CONVEYED CONGRATULATIONS OF
MOROCCAN PEOPLE TO "BROTHER" ALGERIANS. MESSAGE ALLUDED
"COMMON SACRIFICES" ENDURED IN PAST BY TWO PEOPLES. PRESS
ACCOUNT WENT ON TO RECALL "UNRESERVED" MOROCCAN ASSISTANCE
TO ALGERIA DURING ITS STRUGGLE AND EXPRESSED THE HOPE THAT
OCCASTION WOULD INDUCE ALGERIAN LEADERS TO CHANGE ATTITUDE
ON SAHARA AND SUPPORT MOROCCO'S ATTEMPTS TO RESTORE ITS
TERRITORIAL INTEGRITY.

2. DURING NOV 2 PRESS CONFERENCE, MIN INFO BENHIMA WAS
ASKED WHETHER BOUMEDIENE HAD RESPONDED TO ABOVE MESSAGE.
BENHIMA DID NOT ANSWER QUESTION DIRECTLY BUT HIGHLIGHTED POSITIVE
TONE OF KING'S MESSAGE. ASKED ABOUT ALGERIAN PERSISTENCE ON
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SELF-DETERMINATION, BENHIMA SAID ALGERIA HAD ALWAYS

MAINTAINED THIS POSITION AND CANNOT CHANGE NOW, NOTING THAT THIS POSITION IGNORES "OTHER ELEMENTS" OF SITUATION. BENHIMA, ALSO ASKED WHY GOM NOT INFORMING MOROCCAN PEOPLE OF CURRENT ALGERIAN DEMANDS, REPLIED THAT MOROCCO WOULD NOT LET ALGERIA LURE IT INTO MAKING ALGERIA ITS ENEMY.

3. LATEST DEVELOPMENT IS MIN STATE FOR CULTURE BAHNINI TRIP TO ALGIERS, WHERE, AS ALGIERS 3237 NOTES, HIS REMARKS STRIKINGLY CONCILIATORY.

4. ACCORDING WESTERN DIPLOMATIC SOURCE NOV 3, RECENT VISIT FRANCH SECSTATE MFA WAS AT BEHEST GOM, WHICH, HE SPECULATED, SOUGHT TO OBTAIN FRENCH ASSISTANCE IN CONVEYING ASSURANCES TO GOA THAT GOM DID NOT CONTEMPLATE PRESSING CLAIMS OR SENDING FUTURE MARCHERS INTO DISPUTED TINDOUF BORDER REGION.

5. COMMENT: WHILE CURRENT HIGH EMOTIONAL STATE OF COUNTRY HAS GIVEN RISE TO SOME INEVITABLE JINGOISM AMONG VARIOUS ELEMENTS OF SOCIETY, AS FOREGOING INDICATES GOM SENDING OUT SOFT PUBLIC MESSAGE TOWARD ITS NEIGHBOR, AT LEAST FOR MOMENT.
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Message Attributes

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